

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend paragraph [0017] located on page 7 as follows:

[0017] The following three sequences were chosen based on the above criteria:

- (a) ODN-4 5'-TTGGAATAGTGACAGCTCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1)
- (b) ODN-5 5'-CTGACCAAAGACTTAATGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)
- (c) ODN-6 5'-AACATCACCTTCATTCAAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)

Please amend paragraph [0018] located on page 7 as follows:

[0018] Although the above sequences were given as examples of potential probes for one specific gene (SRA), the scope of this invention is not limited to these specific probes and/or genes which can be used in identifying vulnerable plaque. Other SRA-specific probes that may be used in the present invention include 5'-AGCTG CACTGATTGC CCTTTACCTC Ct-3' (SEQ ID NO:4) (ODN-1), 5'-GGGAATGCAATAGATGA AATCT-3' (SEQ ID NO:5) (ODN-2) and 5'-CAGTGGG GTACAATTG TGACG-3' (SEQ ID NO:6) (ODN-3), to name a few examples.